(c) whether Government intend to implement the recommendations made by the Kelkar Committee to formulate a policy to boost weapons exports to make the industry viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir. Part I of the Report of the Kelkar Committee was submitted to the Government on 5th April 2005.

(b) and (c) The recommendations made by the Committee are under examination of the Government.

Acquisition of Dornier aircrafts by Indian Navy from HAL

2390. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Navy had acquired 10 Dornier aircrafts at a total cost of Rs. 388.20 crore from HAL for maritime reconnaissance and submarine warfare;

(b) whether the decision to equip the aircrafts with indigenous role equipment, still under development at DRDO, caused much delay in their commissioning; and

(c) whether these ten aircrafts are now being used only for routine surveillance as against envisaged role of maritime surveillane and anti-submarine warfare?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There was no delay in the commissioning of aircraft. The ten aircraft were inducted in the Navy from February 1998 to December 1999.

The aircraft are being exploited for maritime survelliance and anti-submarine warfare role.

Indo US corporation for futristic weapon system

2391. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Director of Pentagon Defence Cooperation

in his recent visit to India told that US is willing to jointly develop and produce futuristic weapon systems with India;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) what was the response of Government;

(d) whether any decision has been taken in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Director, Defence security Cooperation Agency of the United States Department of Defence, Lt. Gen Jeffery Kohler visited India on April 20-21, 2005, to convey the decision of the United States (US) administration to respond to an Indian Request for Information (RFI) for procurement of a Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft for the Indian Air Force. Lt. Gen Kohler informed the Government that the US Administration has advised the manufactures of the F-16 and the F-18 aircraft to participate in the Request For Proposal (RFP) for the aircraft when issued by the Government of India. He also conveyed US readiness to enter into a defence supply, co-production and Research and Development relationship in areas of advanced defence technologies.

(b) No specific proposals were made.

(c) The Government welcome the US willingness to collaborate with India in the supply, production, transfer of technology and joint research and development of defence equipment in accordance with rules, regulations and procedures of the Government of India on eventually acceptable terms and conditions.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

Terrorist camps in PoK

†2392. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the number of terrorists in Pak occupied Kashmir camps;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.